

By Express Mail # EV364781838US · October 6, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (new): A washing machine comprising:

a washing tub supported with freedom to oscillate, the tub having a front loading opening surrounded by an end surface;

a plurality of fastening elements upstanding from said end surface, said fastening elements having external contours; and

a ballast weight comprising a circular ring section received against said end surface, said section having openings with internal contours which are complementary to the external contours of the fastening elements.

Claim 13 (new): A washing machine as in claim 12 wherein the fastening elements and the internal contours of the ballast weight consist essentially of a thermoplastic material.

Claim 14 (new): A washing machine as in claim 12 wherein the fastening elements have, in a plane parallel to the end surface, one of a honeycomb structure and a closed external surface with internal stiffening ribs stiffening webs.

Claim 15 (new): A washing machine as in claim 12 wherein the openings are one of oval and kidney shaped.

Claim 16 (new): A washing machine as in claim 12 wherein at least some of the fastening elements have posts which are not in contact with said external contour, said posts having respective threaded bores.

Claim 17 (new): A washing machine as in claim 12 wherein the ballast body rests simultaneously against the external contours of a plurality of fastening elements.

Claim 18 (new): A washing machine as in claim 12 wherein said ballast body has a density of $> 2.4 \text{ g/cm}^3$, said ballast body being injection molded of a thermoplastic material containing a ferrous filler comprising at least one of hematite and magnetite.

Claim 19 (new): A washing machine as in claim 18 wherein said ballast body has a density of 2.5 to 3.9 g/cm^3 .

Claim 20 (new): A washing machine as in claim 19 wherein said ballast body has a density of 2.9 to 3.5 g/cm^3 .

Claim 21 (new): A washing machine as in claim 18 wherein said ballast body comprises at least one of polyethylene and polypropylene.

Claim 22 (new): A washing machine as in claim 18 wherein said ferrous material constitutes 35-70% by volume of said ferrous material, said ferrous material further comprising rolling scale.

Claim 23 (new): A washing machine as in claim 17 wherein said thermoplastic material forms the entire surface of said ballast body.

Claim 24 (new): A ballast body for a washing machine, said ballast body having a density of $> 2.4 \text{ g/cm}^3$, said ballast body being injection molded of a thermoplastic material containing a ferrous filler comprising at least one of hematite and magnetite.

Claim 25 (new): A ballast body as in claim 24 wherein said ballast body has a density of 2.5 to 3.9 g/cm^3 .

Claim 26 (new): A ballast body as in claim 25 wherein said ballast body has a density of 2.9 to 3.5 g/cm^3 .

Claim 27 (new): A ballast body as in claim 24 wherein said ballast body comprises at least one of polyethylene and polypropylene.

Claim 28 (new): A ballast body as in claim 24 wherein said ferrous material constitutes 35-70% by volume of said ferrous material, , said ferrous material further comprising rolling scale.

Claim 29 (new): A ballast body as in claim 24 wherein said thermoplastic material forms the entire surface of said ballast body.